

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (original): A method of improving the colouring effects of non-oxidative hair colouring compositions, comprising application to the hair of ceramide or functionally similar related material, in the absence of phytantriol.
5. (canceled)
6. (currently amended): The ~~composition or~~ method according to any one of claims 1-5 4, wherein the ceramide or functionally similar related material comprises one or more ceramides or pseudoceramides.
7. (currently amended): The ~~composition or~~ method according to claim 6, wherein the ceramide comprises ceramide 2.
8. (currently amended): The ~~composition or~~ method according to claim 6, wherein the pseudoceramide comprises bishydroxyethyl biscetyl malonamide.
9. (currently amended): A method of improving the colouring effects of a non-oxidative hair dye which comprises applying to hair, ceramide or pseudoceramide before, during or after application of the hair dye to said hair, the ceramide or pseudoceramide being used in an amount effective to provide an improved colour effect.
10. (new): The method according to claim 9 wherein the ceramide or pseudoceramide is applied as a composition comprising 0.01 to 5% by weight of said ceramide or pseudoceramide.

11. (new): The method according to claim 9 wherein the ceramide or pseudoceramide is applied as a composition comprising 0.05 to 1% by weight of said ceramide or pseudoceramide.